Pontrilas Dec 4 7
[1852]

My dear Gray

It was with great anxiety that we waited for the post this morning, which fortunately brought us Mrs Gray's letter with as favorable accounts as we could have expected although your sufferings appear to have been more than we conjectured from Mrs Gray's first letter. I should have come to join you had not I reckoned upon Dr Harvey's being with you so much sooner than I would have been, since you cannot be in better hands. I long to hear of your being over the water and under his ~~roof~~ roof where you will be so much better than in an inn. I thought indeed you might have been carried

over before this and therefore when a letter came for you yesterday from Mess^rs M^c Neal & C^o I redirected it to D^r Harvey at Dublin.

I am really quite ashamed at accepting the very handsome present of Weddell's valuable book which came in my parcel yesterday. I am already so much in your debt for the important increase to my herbarium from New England etc sources — if I had known of your intention I should have prevented it but now that it is done I have only most sincerely to accept my thanks. This morning I had a letter from Decaisne in answer to mine offering to procure it for me at a considerable discount ~~so that~~ which I should have accepted had not the parcel come just in time to save it — so again many thanks for it.

Decaisne desires me "de vous serrer cordialement la main de sa part" "en attendant qu'il puisse le faire lui-même" and to say that he has plenty of work for you if so disposed in Trécul's collections from Texas & the Missouri.

We have much missed you and M^rs Gray — and now we have not the consolation of thinking you are enjoying yourselves with your excellent friends at Dublin — I have set to work at Eriogoneae which are some of them rather bothersome — I find many of Nuttall's MS names different from those he published. There is an old one of Pursh's from "Upper Louisiana, Bradbury" which I do not recognise — I saw it formerly in Lambert's herbarium — Where is it likely to be from?

Yours very sincerely
George Bentham

Kindest remembrances to D^r Harvey